



Public Comment Period

To put Hanford's Integrated Disposal Facility into standby mode

April 23, through June 8, 2007 (NEW DATES)

The Washington State Department of Ecology invites you to comment on a proposed change to Hanford's Integrated Disposal Facility (IDF) permit. The change will put the IDF into a standby mode called "custodial care."

What is a "custodial care" phase?

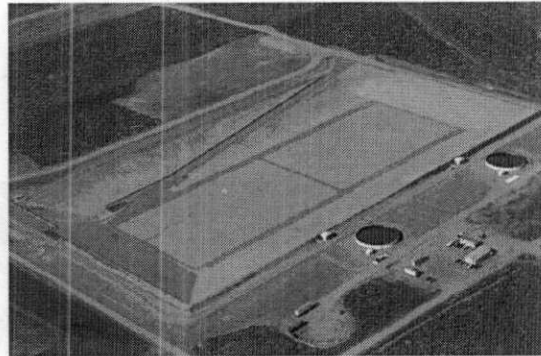
Ecology defines this as the time between the end of construction and 180 days before a facility receives waste.

The IDF is a landfill at Hanford for low-activity mixed wastes. (Mixed wastes have both radioactive and dangerous chemicals.) It is wise to put the facility into standby because the U.S. Department of Energy will not put any wastes there for at least a few years.

Some conditions in the IDF's permit apply to active facilities. The proposed changes to the permit remove those conditions and add ones that apply to an inactive facility.

Why are no wastes going to the facility?

The permit only allows disposal of glass waste from bulk vitrification, low-activity glass from the Waste Treatment Plant, and dangerous waste resulting from IDF's operations. The bulk vitrification demonstration is delayed. It will be years before the waste treatment plant makes any low-activity waste glass to be buried there. No other wastes can be disposed of in the facility until after an environmental study is done in 2009.



Washington Administrative Code (173-303-040) defines the active life of a facility as "the period from the initial receipt of dangerous waste... until the department receives certification of final closure."

The IDF has not yet begun its official active life.

When will the custodial care phase end?

When Hanford is ready to send waste to the IDF, the IDF will need to resume active life. It will take about six months to make the IDF ready to receive waste after the custodial care phase ends. When the Permittees are ready to resume the IDF's active life, Ecology will restore all the original permit conditions.

IDF Permittees

Owner/Operator: The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of River Protection and Richland Operations Office, P.O. Box 550, Richland, WA, 99352

Co-operator: CH2M HILL, Hanford Group, 2440 Stevens Center Place, Richland, WA, 99354.

What parts of the facility's permit would change?

The permit changes are as follows:

- The permit conditions for training and for handling emergencies would change to reflect that there is no waste in the facility.
- The Permittees would inspect, monitor, and collect sump liquids, plus after storms.
- Ecology would add a permit condition that defines sump liquids as rain water.
- Ecology will add a condition requiring deficiencies noted during inspections to be corrected within 90 days.
- The proposed changes extends the deadline for the Permittees to submit key documents such as the risk budget tool. (The risk budget tool will model future impacts of planned IDF waste forms and their impact to the ground and groundwater.) The Permit requires submittal of this document before receipt of waste in the IDF until Ecology approves the risk budget tool.

How can I learn more about the changes?

The draft permit application and its statement of basis (a summary) are available online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm>. To review the draft permit changes at Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program Office, call 509-372-7920. You can also review the proposal at Hanford's Public Information Repositories, listed on reverse.

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How can I make a comment?

Send all comments in writing, by **Friday, June 8, 2007**, to:
Sterling L. Derrick
Washington State Department of Ecology
3100 Port of Benton Blvd
Richland, WA 99354
509-372-7971 fax
Sder461@ecy.wa.gov

Ecology has not scheduled a public hearing. To request a hearing, contact Madeleine Brown at 509-372-7936 or mabr461@ecy.wa.gov.

The public comment period runs from **April 23 to June 8, 2007**. Ecology will consider all comments it receives during this period. Ecology will issue a response to comments when it issues the final decision on the permit change.

How can you review the permit?

You can review the draft permit modification at the Hanford Public Information Repositories. To make an appointment to review the information at Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program Richland office, call 509-372-7920. Review the draft permit online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp/commentperiods.htm>.

HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price Millar Library
1875 SW Park Ave.
Attn: Don Frank 503-725-4132

Richland

U.S. Department of Energy Reading Room
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Dr.
Attn: Janice Parthree 509-372-7443

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Attn: Eleanor Chase 206-543-4664

Spokane

Gonzaga University
Foley Center
502 E. Boone Ave.
Attn: Linda Pierce 509-323-3834

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call the Nuclear Waste Program at 509-372-7950. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.

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WASHINGTON STATE
DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLGY
Nuclear Waste Program
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